REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 4, 2006 ("Office Action"). Claims 1 to 38 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 34, and 35 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), primarily over U.S. Patent 5,218,455 ("Kristy") in view of U.S. Patent 6,393,206 ("Yagi"). In rejecting certain ones of the dependent claims, the Office Action additionally relied on one or more of the following patents: U.S. Patent 6,031,976 ("Koakutsu"); U.S. Patent 5,764,870 ("Manico"); U.S. Patent 5,930,465 ("Bellucco"); U.S. Patent 6,289,416 ("Fukushima"); U.S. Patent 6,421,782 ("Yanagisawa"); "Inside Adobe Photoshop" by Bouton, et al. ("Bouton"); U.S. Patent 6,085,195 ("Hoyt"); U.S. Patent 5,949,411 ("Doerr"). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 1 recites a method for authoring a plurality of digital image records, each digital image record corresponding to a separate customer order, in a digital image record authoring system including a dedicated computer having a computer processor. The method comprises a scanning step to transmit a plurality of digital images corresponding to a separate customer order over a first data path from a scanner to the computer processor, wherein the first data path includes one or more first high-speed image data interface buses, and a processing step to process the plurality of digital images by the computer processor and to combine the processed plurality of digital images into a record image. The method also comprises a writing step to transmit the record image over a second data path from the computer processor to an image-recorder for recording onto a

medium. The second data path includes one or more second high-speed image data interface buses, wherein each of the one or more second high-speed image data interface buses is separate from each of the one or more first high-speed image data interface buses. The scanning step is repeated, prior to completion of the writing step, to transmit a new plurality of images corresponding to a new customer order over the first data path, such that transfer of the new plurality of digital images over the first data path and transfer of the record image over the second data path occur simultaneously over separate paths.

Independent Claim 34 defines a method similar to Claim 1, and also specifies that the record image, which is passed from the dedicated computer to the image-recorder, is passed at a constant rate.

Independent Claim 35 is directed to a method with features that correspond generally to the method of Claim 1, but is more specifically directed to authoring a CD-ROM, and includes features such as an adjusting step to adjust each of the plurality of digital images which were scanned in from the scanner, and a generating step to generate a print index file containing a thumbnail representation of each of the adjusted plurality of digital images, the print index file for printing by a printer.

The applied references are not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 1, 34, and 35, and in particular, are not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of transmitting a plurality of digital images corresponding to a separate customer order over a first data path from a scanner to a computer processor, wherein the first data path includes one or more first high-speed image data interface buses, and transmitting a record image over a second data path from the computer processor to an image-recorder, wherein the second data path includes one or more second high-speed

image data interface buses, wherein each of the one or more second high-speed image data interface buses is separate from each of the one or more first high-speed image data interface buses, such that transfer of the new plurality of digital images over the first data path and transfer of the record image over the second data path occur simultaneously over separate paths.

While Kristy may disclose a scanner 12 connected to a computer 14, which is connected to a CD writer 18, Kristy is not seen to disclose or to suggest transmitting a plurality of digital images corresponding to a separate customer order over a first data path from a scanner to a computer processor, wherein the first data path includes one or more first high-speed image data interface buses, and transmitting a record image over a second data path from the computer processor to an image-recorder, wherein the second data path includes one or more second high-speed image data interface buses, wherein each of the one or more second high-speed image data interface buses is separate from each of the one or more first high-speed image data interface buses, such that transfer of the new plurality of digital images over the first data path and transfer of the record image over the second data path occur simultaneously over separate paths.

The Office Action contends that Yagi discloses a second high-speed image data interface bus connecting a receiver 9 to a control unit 1 (see Figure 16 (9→7) of Yagi) and a first high-speed image data interface bus connecting a disc access unit 3 to control unit 1 (see Figure 16 (3→7)). (Office Action, page 5). However, Yagi's Figure 16 discloses that both (9→7) and (3→7) are connected to a bus 7, which is a common bus to all of Yagi's peripherals in Figure 16. Accordingly, the transfer of data from one peripheral to another in Yagi is seen to occur over a common bus 7, and is not seen to

disclose or to suggest transmitting a plurality of digital images corresponding to a separate customer order over a first data path from a scanner to a computer processor, wherein the first data path includes one or more first high-speed image data interface buses, and transmitting a record image over a second data path from the computer processor to an image-recorder, wherein the second data path includes one or more second high-speed image data interface buses, wherein each of the one or more second high-speed image data interface buses is separate from each of the one or more first high-speed image data interface buses, such that transfer of the new plurality of digital images over the first data path and transfer of the record image over the second data path occur simultaneously over separate paths.

The Office Action also refers to column 20, lines 23 to 33 of Yagi with regards to Yagi's disclosure of real time dubbing. However, even if Yagi's disclosure of real time dubbing were seen to relate to transfer of images over (9→7) and (3→7), and Applicants do not concede this point, Yagi's real time dubbing is seen to be inapposite to the foregoing features that each of the one or more second high-speed image data interface buses is separate from each of the one or more first high-speed image data interface buses, such that transfer of a new plurality of digital images over the first data path and transfer of the record image over the second data path occur simultaneously over separate paths.

The remaining references, namely Koakutsu, Manico, Bellucco, Fukushima, Yanagisawa, Bouton, Hoyt and Doerr are not seen to cure the deficiencies of Kristy and Yagi. Specifically, the remaining references are not seen to disclose or to suggest anything that, when combined with Kristy and/or Yagi, would have resulted in the presently claimed invention. Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 34 and 35 are believed to

be allowable.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Edward A. Kmett/
Edward A. Kmett
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No.: 42,746

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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